

Names (max. 2): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Project #: \_\_\_\_\_

CMed 20/30

## **ANIMATION – Stop Motion**

### **Description**

This project requires you to create a short (30-second to 2-minute) story-based animation.

Formats can include:

- person-focused with **special effects** (i.e. if it could have been simply video-taped, it's not suitable for stop-motion animation – see examples)
- object-oriented (legos, stuffed animals, model vehicles, dolls, sticky notes, etc.)
- art-based (clay, drawings, paintings, magazine cutouts, etc.)
- combination (combining the above styles)

### **Format**

Your animation must have a simple plot and can be a remix of an existing story (ex: your version of a fairy tale). Typically, stop-motion animations are done by taking several hundred photos with only slight differences between each shot. This is a painstaking process that requires a lot of pre-planning and patience.

Your camera will need to be stabilized in a fixed point. You can certainly change angles once in a while but even slight camera movement from one angle will create unsteadiness in the final production. If you need several shoots to complete your production, you will need to be sure your set and lighting do not vary. Watch for time of day and cloudiness or sun if using any natural light.

Since your shots will be composed into a video, set the camera to shoot at its lowest resolution.

This will save space and time when you upload hundreds of shots. For example, if you want really great definition, you will shoot at 24 fps (frames per second). In other words, it will take 24 pictures to make up one second of video. If you do the math ( $24 \times 60$ ), it will take 1440 pictures to make one minute. The minimum frame rate allowed for this project is 12 fps.

There are links to tutorial videos and examples to help you grasp the concept a little better.

### **Pre-Production Elements**

Create a story outline – a paragraph or two that summarizes the story, lists characters, background, settings, and main conflict.

Complete a storyboard of at least 12 frames (obviously not one storyboard frame per picture) with accompanying details. Plan to incorporate music and sound effects.

Write the script for your animation. This can be recorded after the video editing is complete to ensure synchronization.

Build your set and characters. Choose a location for your shoot that will not be disturbed. If possible, use only artificial lighting (ex: close blinds, use an interior room without windows, etc.)

### **Scoring (20% - 25%)**

	<b>Hard copy</b>	<b>E-file</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Story outline – typed and printed	✓	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Script – typed and printed	✓	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Storyboard, 12 frame minimum, all required details	✓	X

## Production Elements

Take your photos at the lowest resolution possible. Set your still picture settings in the video editing software before importing your photos into the timeline. Be sure your video meets the required elements, minimum 30 seconds at 12 fps. Movements throughout the animation should be smooth and realistic.

Record your script and import it into one of the available sound tracks. Ensure it matches up with video.

Add music and sound effects where appropriate. Include title, production company name, copyright year, animator (you) and author (you unless the story is borrowed). Export your video as an MP4 or WMV but also be sure to save your project file.

### Scoring (50% - 60%)

- ☐ sufficient frame rate and duration
- ☐ animations are smooth, realistic, camera work steady
- ☐ follows a logical plot and the storyboard
- ☐ script, sound effects and music are synchronized with the video

## Post-Production Elements

Get a Peer Review and be prepared to make some last-minute changes. Complete a Project Reflection form and save your animation file to the proper project folder.

### Scoring (15% - 25%)

	Hard copy	E-file
<input type="checkbox"/> Peer review	X	✓
<input type="checkbox"/> Animation file	X	✓
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Reflection	X	✓

## SUMMARY

A single element, done well, can be outstanding, however, done poorly, can bring down the entire feel of the entire production. Weight each category accordingly. Total must equal 100.

Category	Weight Range	Choose a weighting	Score
Pre-production	20% to 25%		
Production	50% to 60%		
Post-production	15% to 25%		
TOTAL		100%	